of great improvement, and which ought not to continue unproductive, whilst such large quantities of grain are imported into the country, particularly as the value of so much space was worse than lost to the community,—for these wilds are, as they always have been, only a source of idle support in salaries to favourites, or of plunder to the freebooter and poacher. Enough has already been said of the tolerated spoils by officials.

Something has, it is true, been mooted about the disafforestment of the New Forest: the utility of that region for growing ship timber has been given up, since it was proven that the wooden walls of Britain owe little to the oaks of Hampshire,—as, in fact, they were sold to any dealer without reference to the dock-yards! So the 14,000 oaks, lately cut at Hainault, which (*if the biddings be true*) realized 23,000*l.* may, for aught we know, be now in preparation to build *Le Foudroyant*, at Brest. So much for our heart of oak.

There is a heart, however, that is of more value, and that is the heart of "the metropolis," and its teeming population: to keep this heart in proper tone, there should be no limitation of the few privileges and liberties available for them within reach of their hearths and homes. If money be wanted to pay *extra commissioners*, let them be busied or sinecured at a respectful distance from the national dwelling-place. The land, as being vicinal to London, may be more valuable (and Hainault is undoubtedly rich in soil), but is becoming also more valuable, nay indispensable, to the people. The body of the metropolis is much too pursy and too large for the iron-bound lungs (called the parks) which remain in its mature age just the same that they were in its infancy.

In the inclosure of Hainault it is true that private rights have been respected, for the copyholders (having common right) have had 800 acres. Sir C. Hulse has had a good slice; and the poor—that is the poor widows of the vicinage who were entitled to a load of fire-wood at Easter—have had 500*l.* awarded to them to be invested in Three per Cent. Consols! These are Christian times, for the poor still have the Gospel *preached* to them.

The whole management of the Woods and Forests has been changed: each of the two old commissioners has got a department to himself, under his own peculiar management; and to them has been added a third, who formerly a Scotch M.P.—was then niched into 1,000*l.* a year in Ireland,—and is now the manager of the forest *new* department, in which of course each is "Monarch of all he surveys." It is to be hoped that this arbitrary mode of government may prove more advantageous to the exchequer, but above all more beneficial to the country. QUONDAM.

SANITARY MATTERS.

The board of health at Tottenham have carried out works there under the advice of the central Board of Health, with a view of obtaining a combined system of constant water supply, at a pressure adequate to throw the water up, whether for domestic use or in cases of fire, to the top of every house, with sewerage and drainage through smooth tubular pipes of comparatively small calibre, along which the force of the current, it is calculated, will sweep at once away out of the inhabited district everything noxious, instead of lodging it in wide and sluggish sewers to accumulate and rot.

From a report made to the local board, it appears that the works comprehend 8 3-10 miles of sewer mains and sub-mains, and 10 miles of water mains and branches, furnished with 170 hydrants, together with two steam engines and pumps, and an upper and a lower reservoir, both covered. The whole have been executed at a cost of 7,500*l.* The number of inhabited houses in the district is about 1,500. The charge for water supply will be regulated with a view to defray merely the current expenses, and probably will not exceed 2d. per week per house upon the average. Of the glazed stoneware tubular drains, the largest do not exceed eighteen inches, with curved bends and oblique joinings for all the branches; laid upon the plan termed "back drainage." For the water supply that construction has been adopted by which the water is wholly protected from exposure to the sun and the atmosphere. The water is obtained by boring through the chalk to a depth of 120 feet. There are two engines of eight-horse power, and from a well of 18 feet 6 in. deep, the water is pumped by steam through pipes to the highest point, about 80 feet above this level, and about two miles distant, where a reservoir is erected. At Tottenham-green a portable fountain with a great many jets has been supplied by Mr. Freeman Roe. Some model cottages have been fitted up.

Personally, we cannot speak of the success of the arrangement. The cost of obtaining the necessary legal powers, under the Public Health Act, was very little, compared with the sum which a Local Act might have cost, besides loss of time: the whole cost, we are told, was only about 60*l.*

On the general question of health, a district surveyor writes to us,—The progress of Sanitary Reform, as evinced by the conduct of two successive Governments, with reference to the interment of the dead among the living, namely, the Burials Bill and the sewers question, would lead one to the somewhat unwelcome conclusion, that the importance of these questions is but very imperfectly appreciated in "high places." In confirmation of this, the proposed and accepted proposal for the establishment of a New Smithfield in Copenhagen Fields, has but to be adduced, to be added to the long list of sins of omission and commission.

As you have well observed, the Burials Act is simply permissive, and leaves all the evils suffered in the old state of things untouched and in full force.

With regard to the Smithfield question, every one that I am acquainted with had conceived this *vexata questio* finally disposed of; the nuisance to be abated, and not permitted to be or exist within seven miles of the city of London. Imagine our consternation on finding that Copenhagen-fields, distant some two miles and a quarter, is to be the favoured locality. To what a lame and impotent conclusion have we come at last!

With regard to the sewers question, I can only add my testimony to what has been so often and so forcibly expounded in your pages. That until the abolition of all cesspools shall have been accomplished, and landlords will ascertain with their own eyes, and not leave, as is too frequently the case, these matters to agents, that proper drainage is provided, and proper flushing by water supply had, and these fertile sources of mischief (cesspools) filled up, it is impossible that the houses of their tenants can ever be free from disease, low fever, and the debilitating effects produced by the breathing of an atmosphere charged with impurities, and a soil saturated with cesspools.

Another correspondent, "G. R. F." writes,—The excellent article in the last week's Builder, by "Quondam," on "Slaughtering in the Metropolis," induces me to trouble you with a few lines on the revived subject of the Metropolitan Cattle-market, and it is gratifying to find that an almost unanimous feeling prevails against its being placed in Copenhagen-fields. The site which was mentioned by me, and of which I thought in June twelvemonth, opposite Woolwich, has had your approval, and I proceed to point out how the abattoir system may be carried out as part of a comprehensive scheme in conjunction with a market, if established in that locality. The river Thames should be made the medium of communication from the market pier to landing-places at certain intervals on both sides of the river, from Woolwich to Battersea, and a sufficient number of abattoirs established at, or close to, these landing-places, to which the animals would be conveyed in barges or ferry-boats made for the express purpose, and no beast should be allowed to be driven through the streets of London or its suburbs, unless under certain and strict regulations.

In addition to these local abattoirs there should be one on a grand scale in the market, from which the carcases would be conveyed by the railway lines. The saving in the quality of the meat, where animals can be spared the cruel inflictions to which they are now subject, would alone amount to a considerable value, and no mode of conveyance can be more easy to animals than water carriage, of which the expense would find an adequate compensation in the improved and wholesome state of the meat. On the £. s. d. principle, as well as on the score of humanity and health, it would be very desirable if some such system as I have advocated in mere outline could be carried into practice. I am glad to find that others, besides myself, point to the same neighbourhood as suited to the purposes of a cattle-market, and I trust that the corporation will, at all events, take into their consideration a site which enjoys advantages of singularly happy combination, which are actually still on the increase, since the proposed Victoria Dock, and the intended branch railway to Tilbury, may be made to serve the purposes of the market. The distance from Brunswick Pier to Roff's Pier, could be easily performed in ten minutes by steamers laid on for the purpose, and from Brunswick Pier to Fenchurch-street by express trains in another ten minutes: thus a butcher from Leadenhall Market could reach the new market in less than half an hour, and the respective abattoirs would be at no great distance from tradesmen in any one quarter.

The dread of cholera already begins to influence the country as a stimulus to sanitary progress. At Huddersfield the ratepayers have been taking measures to promote sanitary reform in the outer hamlets of the township and adjoining districts. In Welshpool the sanitary state of the town has been under formal consideration, and a cleansing committee has been appointed, with power to consider and report on the advantage of applying the Health of Towns Act to the town or otherwise. There is some commotion at Derby as to the state of the graveyards in the town, which is said to be quite appalling. Five of them are in the very centre of the most populous locality in the town. The local clergy, to their honour, have taken an active part in the movement for their suppression, but there are difficulties in the way here as elsewhere. The Banbury local Board of Health are contracting with Messrs. Davis and Saunders for a survey of the district, and they have appointed Mr. Davids, the manager of the business of the contractors, as their surveyor and inspector of nuisances, at a salary of 100*l.* a year, to be increased if he be also appointed to act as clerk of works in contemplation. At Worcester, the first stone of public baths was laid on Monday week. The brick walls are already 3 feet up. There will be eight bath-rooms at the ends, and four waiting and other rooms in the centre. A swimming bath is also contemplated either here or at the Severn. Mr. Joseph Wood is the builder of the baths, which are to be opened in about three months. At Arbroath there is an outcry for water, as there also is at Forfar, where, however, measures are being taken to remedy the defect.

Disfigurement of the New Royal Exchange.—The Gresham Committee have declined either to suspend the works or to alter the avowed determination. The report of this result has been received with disappointment and regret by those who feel an interest in the character of our national buildings.

Accident with melted Lead.—While filling a hole drilled in the granite block at the base of the Nelson column for a bolt of the casting to be fixed on it, one of the plumbers was much injured, by water, or steam rather, suddenly expelling a large quantity of melted lead into his face. We mention the circumstance in order to express our surprise that so well-known a risk was not obviated, as usual, by the ascertainment, beforehand, that the hole was perfectly dry. Such circumstances occur perhaps oftener from carelessness than from ignorance.

To learn about PDF Compression and OCR visit ThePaperlessOffice.org